

sary and highly essential factor of preparation of the lesson. There is a general law which is applicable to all departments of activity, and that is, the fact that success only finds the individual who by preparation has made himself efficient. The sailor furls his sail, the soldier obeys the command, the farmer reaps his wheat, and just in the proportion that the thoroughness of his training is mingled with his labor, just in that proportion, he becomes the efficient sailor, the intelligent soldier, and the successful farmer. To succeed in any department of work we must prepare and be equipped to meet the demands of that department. An unsuccessful physician, lawyer, minister or teacher is not uncommon and the reason is apparent to the most uneducated.

There are numberless reasons why preparation is necessary and more so in the Sabbath-school teacher than in all other departments. First, the development of the spiritual nature is the most important factor in life's attainments and hence, if we expect the day school teacher to be familiar with a knowledge of minor importance, how much more necessary is it that the S. S. teacher should be familiar with topics that concern the souls salvation. Then again the lack of time that is given to a recitation of an important truth, and its application necessitates a thorough knowledge of its fundamental basis, that it may be presented in its most intense phase before the minds of the instructed. We should prepare because it lends inspiration to our efforts to accomplish a real good, and those can testify from experience who have been enthused and filled with the presentation of a familiar subject, that reacts in unbounded satisfaction to the instructor and instructed. Reflecting as it were from the minds and faces, a light of intense interest. 'Twould be an impossibility to kindle a flame without a spark and 'twould be equally useless to attempt an effort to interest without first being inspired by the subject at hand.

Fellow teacher, is your work accomplished at the close of Sabbath-school? Are you leaving your pupils in a state of higher thoughts and nobler ambitions that will lead them to see the beauties and grandeurs of the universe, and to look beyond the things of earth for a life of eternal joy? If so, then your work has been well done, and you are subserving the highest ideal of the Christian religion. If not, then 'twere better had your efforts not been attempted and your work remained unrecognized. "Not one day, but every day" should we be up and doing that the work of our lives may be lastingly perpetuated.

LET ALL THE PEOPLE PRAISE THEE!

ALVIN BYERS.

"Oh that men would praise the Lord for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men." Psalms 107:8.

The Psalmist here exhorteth the redeemed, in praising God. We, as Christians to-day, fail to give God the praise he ought to have for his loving kindness, tender mercies and wonderful works to the children of men. In everything we do, in everything that we accomplish, we should give God the praise.

First, let us notice briefly the goodness of God. It is eternal. He has manifested his goodness toward men in past ages, and is greatly manifesting his goodness towards the children of men at the present, and as God is an eternal God, his goodness will continue in favor of the children of men until time shall be no more.

Another feature of his goodness is, that it is universal, it is not limited to a certain class of people, neither does it run in a narrow channel, but extends to all people throughout the whole universe. If God's goodness was limited according to the way some men's goodness is limited, it would run in a very narrow channel. So let us praise God for his eternal and universal goodness.

God's goodness is the source of all goodness for "he is the giver of every good and perfect gift" and he also puts it in the hearts of men to do kind acts and he creates a love in the hearts of the most sinful man that makes him do some noble deeds. We have some people that are very wicked and you may go to them any hour of the night asking them to go for a doctor or to help care for the sick, and they will gladly do all they can for you. Man in his own sinful nature would not do that if there were not something of a Christian character back of it, so we must say that God's goodness is the foundation of all goodness. And the next thing that is worthy of our consideration is the wonderful works of God.

First, take the mechanism of our bodies, the earthly home of our souls. It is one of the grandest works ever man laid his eyes upon. Behold the frame work, how each bone is shaped and made for some grand purpose and when the two hundred and eight bones are joined together, we have the frame work, which gives shape, grace and movement, and behold, how God has covered the frame work with flesh containing veins, arteries, capillaries through which the blood flows, carrying the nourishment of our food to all parts

of the body. It also contains nerves and nerve centers.

Man is a compound being, having a body, soul and spirit. The foot of man is so made to support the body, and the hand is another wonderful mechanism, the fingers are so arranged as to enable one to pick up the smallest articles. Take the eye, it is another member, even greater than the hand; then we have the ears, the organs of hearing, so we have the make up of the body, and we must say, how wonderful are the works of God.

And as this body is constantly wearing out, we must have material from which to repair it as fast as it wears out. The Bible tells us that man was made out of the dust of the earth. Therefore, God has so arranged the nature and grandeur of earth, so that when she sends forth her beautiful foliage, man can directly or indirectly receive all the necessities of life, which tend to build up and protect the body, so you see God has adapted the ways of nature to suit and supply the wants of man, and we can again come to you and say that men should praise the Lord for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men.

When we look around us and see our pleasant situation and see the blessings of freedom of religion, and of liberty in many other respects, and realize how God has cared for us in past life, and how he created men, such as Washington, the father of his country, and many others, who gave their life's blood for the blessings of liberty, which we now enjoy under the American flag, called the stars and stripes. But our minds can't help but drift back beyond the life of Washington, where we can see through ancient history and many places in the Bible where we can see God's providential care over his people cropping out, and we can see how he has led his people in many ways. How wonderful are the works of God, both in nature and providential government.

Another of the wonderful works of God is the plan of redemption. There was a time when the people were in darkness, and the gloom of despondency hung like a dark cloud in the western skies. They violated God's law that was given them through Moses, and was left in a helpless condition for some one to redeem them and God looked upon them with an eye of pity and tender compassion. And he sent his only begotten Son into this world to suffer and die, in order to redeem man from the curse of a broken law. And in so doing, he opened up the plan of salvation through which we are saved to-day.

"Oh the blood, the precious blood,
That Jesus shed for me,
Upon the cross, in crimson flood,
Just now by faith I see."